DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 152 347 JC 780 164

TITLE A Study of the Feasibility of Establishing a Community College in St. Tammany Parish.
INSTITUTION Louisiana State Board of Regents, Baton Rouge.
PUB DATE Feb 78
NOTE 49p.; Not available in hard copy due to marginal legibility of original document

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 Plus Postage. HC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Access to Education; Community Characteristics; Community Colleges; *Community Study; Demography; Educational Facilities; Educational Needs; Enrollment Trends; *Feasibility Studies; High School Students; *Junior Colleges; *Needs Assessment; Postsecondary Education; *Regional Planning
IDENTIFIERS *Louisiana

ABSTRACT

In determining the feasibility of establishing a new, two-year community college in St. Tammany's Parish to serve a three parish area, this study examined data on socioeconomic and population descriptions of the proposed service area; follow-up studies of high school students for previous years; and area high school and post-high school programs currently in operation. Criteria applied to the statistical data gathered included: making optimum use of state higher education resources in relation to functional and geographical needs; avoiding unnecessary duplication and differentiating between the function of two-year colleges, four-year colleges, and universities; arranging new institution financing so that it does not interfere with needs, including expansion or improvement of existing institutions; assuring that publicly supported institutions do not jeopardize private ones already serving the community well; and not overlooking the particular needs of localities while recognizing that the general interest of the state should be paramount. Study results indicated that although the anticipated area population growth would probably provide sufficient enrollment to meet the minimum requirements for a new college, a new institution would have adverse effects on existing colleges and universities and on an already limited state higher education budget. The study data are included. (TR)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Louisiana
Board of Regents

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

ED152347

A Study of the Feasibility of Establishing a Community College in St. Tammany Parish

February 1978

Louisiana Board of Regents

JC 780 164

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
I.	Introduction	1
II.	Chapter I The Area Under Study	4
III.	Chapter II The Educational Environment	12
IV.	Chapter III Potential Effects of New Two-year College	20
V.	Chapter IV Application of Criteria and Conclusion	28
VI.	Appendix A - Figures	34
VII.	Appendix B - Tables	38

INTRODUCTION

Reason for the Study

During the 1977 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the House passed, with Senate concurrence, a resolution requesting the Louisiana Board of Regents "to study the feasibility of establishing a two-year community college in St. Tammany Parish."[1] The reasons given for this request are stated as follows:

1. St. Tammany Parish is not presently served by a community college;
2. The area has potential growth in both population and industry;
3. a community college could provide the technical training demanded by new industry;
4. the establishment of a community college would broaden the educational opportunity for residents of St. Tammany Parish; and
5. a prominent family has expressed its willingness to donate an estimated four hundred acres of land for the purpose of establishing a community college in St. Tammany Parish.[2] (The land is located near the airport interchange approximately 2 miles from the corporate limits of Slidell, Louisiana.)

Criteria for Study

Before building community colleges within commuting distance of the bulk of the population, the probable success or failure of each institution must be considered. In December, 1977, the Board of Regents adopted The Master Plan for Higher Education in Louisiana. The Regents, realizing that sound, careful planning was paramount in studying the feasibility of establishing new two-year campuses in Louisiana, recommended the following:

> In regard to the establishment of two-year institutions, the Board of Regents recommends that a new two-year institution of higher education may be considered for establishment in any area where projections indicate an enrollment potential of at least 1,500 full-time equivalent students by the end of the third year of operation and 2,000 by the end of the fifth year. The Board of Regents will

take into consideration the geographic location of existing institutions which may be in enough proximity to the area under study to provide effectively the necessary higher education services.[3]

In order to test the potential success of a proposed institution certain data must be examined as follows:

1. socioeconomic and population descriptions of the proposed area to be served;
2. followup studies of high school students in previous years;
3. posthigh school programs now in the area to be served; and
4. programs of high school level in the area.[4]

When a clear statistical picture of the area under study has been developed, criteria must be applied in order to reach a conclusion regarding the establishment of new institutions of higher education. The following criteria are nationally accepted:

1. Optimum use should be made of state higher education resources in relation to the greatest relative need, both geographically and functionally.
2. To avoid unnecessary duplication, differentiation of functions of the three segments of public higher education--2-year colleges, 4-year colleges, and university campuses--is imperative.
3. The financing of new publicly supported institutions should be so arranged that it in no way interferes with the needs, including improvement or expansion, of existing ones.
4. It is not in the public interest to extend publicly supported institutions to the degree that they jeopardize the continued operation of long-established private ones that are serving the community well.
5. In considering the need for additional public institutions, the particular needs of localities should not be overlooked, yet the general interest of the state should be paramount. Therefore, in determining the need for additional 2-year college facilities..., the following are most important:
    a. the number of high school graduates, the location of existing institutions, the relation between the student capacity of these institutions and the estimated enrollment in the geographical area served by each.

b. the number of potential students within reasonable commuting distance of each of the proposed sites (to insure that a maximum number of students can attend).

c. the need to enroll more students than can be accommodated by existing 2-year colleges, 4-year colleges, and universities.

d. the need to provide additional educational opportunities for students in counties (parishes) beyond reasonable commuting range of existing colleges who might not be able to obtain a college education.[5]

This study will be based on the information and criteria outlined above.

CHAPTER I

THE AREA UNDER STUDY

Parishes To Be Included

For purposes of this study St. Tammany, Washington, and Tangipahoa Parishes were identified as the service area which the proposed two-year institution would serve. St. Tammany Parish is bordered on the east by the State of Mississippi, on the north by Washington Parish, on the west by Tangipahoa Parish, and on the south by Lake Pontchartrain and, to an extent, Orleans Parish. (See Appendix A, Figure 1.) Since Orleans Parish is served by three public institutions of higher education (including a comprehensive community college) and six independent institutions of higher education, the population of the parish is already sufficiently served by higher education. Therefore, for purposes of this study, Orleans Parish will be considered only with regard to the institutions located in New Orleans which provide services to the three parish area.

Population, Employment, and Income

A commuting distance of forty miles from the proposed location of the institution at Slidell, Louisiana, has been chosen as acceptable for the purposes of this study. Due to natural and state boundaries such as Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi state line, and the abundance of colleges and universities in the New Orleans area, the forty mile radius will be used as it affects the three parish area identified above. (See Appendix A, Figure 2.) Data used to depict this area are available only on an entire parish basis. Therefore, a large area in Tangipahoa Parish and an area of Washington Parish will be

included in the data, although those sections are further than forty miles from the location of the proposed two-year college.

Table I displays population data for the three parishes under consideration. Although the population of Washington Parish is projected to decline slightly, the population of St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes is projected to increase significantly. Tangipahoa Parish is projected to experience a 17 percent increase in population between 1975 and 1990. St. Tammany Parish, a recognized primary growth area in the State of Louisiana, is projected to experience a 46 percent population growth during that 15-year period.

TABLE I

Population for St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes 1960 and 1970, Projected 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990

	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington
1960	38,643	59,434	44,015
1970	63,585	65,875	41,987
1975	73,152	69,944	42,231
1980	83,641	73,641	42,363
1985	94,455	77,800	42,143
1990	106,760	81,638	41,864

Source: 1960 and 1970 data from U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, County and City Data Book. 1975-1990 data from the Division of Business and Economic Research, College of Business Administration, University of New Orleans, Projections to the Year 2000 of Louisiana Population and Households.

Although, nationally, colleges and universities are attracting increasing numbers of students from the older age groups, recent high school graduates continue to serve as the primary source of enrollments. The three parish area under investigation is served by 27 high schools, of which 18 are public and 9 are independent. (See Appendix B, Table 1 for a listing of high schools in the three parish area.)

Table II displays projected high school graduates in the three parish area for 1980, 1985, and 1990.

TABLE II

Projected High School Graduates in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa. and Washington Parishes 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990

	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington	Total
1975 (actual)	1,129	911	671	2,711
1980	1,502	913	587	3,002
1985	1,425	814	371	2,610
1990	1,432	740	367	2,539

Source: Board of Regents, Louisiana High School Graduates: Actual and Projected, 1973-1993.

The three parish area produced 2,711 high school graduates in 1975. Although the number of high school graduates is projected to increase in the three parish area to 3,002 in 1980, between 1980 and 1990 the number of graduates is projected to decline to 2,539, a decrease of 15 percent. It should be noted that the high school graduate projections are based on actual live

birth data. This technique does not account for anticipated migration into the St. Tammany Parish area. Of the projected 28 percent increase in population in St. Tammany Parish from 1980 to 1990, 54 percent is attributable to in-migration. (Computed from data contained in Projections to the Year 2000 of Louisiana Population and Households, Division of Business and Economic Research, University of New Orleans.) Instead of a 5 percent decline in graduates in St. Tammany Parish between 1980 and 1990, it can be assumed that any increase in graduates from St. Tammany attributable to in-migration might offset the decline in graduates of Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes. It should be noted that, statewide, the number of high school graduates is projected to decline between 1980 and 1990. This projected decline in high school graduates will affect all of Louisiana's institutions of higher education, a point which will be more fully discussed in a later chapter.

It is important to review the employment picture in the three parish area to understand what types of employment opportunities exist for a college-trained person. Average employment over the last five years in the area under study is presented in Table III. Percentage changes in total average employment for the three parish area and the state are displayed in Table IV. Several observations can be made based on data in Tables III and IV. First, all three parishes have experienced a positive growth from 1972 through 1976. The number of individuals holding jobs in the three parish area increased by 27 percent during the 5-year period compared to 24 percent statewide. Although Tangipahoa Parish continued to employ more individuals, St. Tammany Parish's growth rate far exceeds Tangipahoa's, 51 percent and 19 percent respectively. Second, the categories "services" and "construction" continue to enjoy a healthy growth rate, 148 and 67 percent respectively, from 1972 - 1976.

TABLE III

Average Employment in Major Industry Groups (Excluding Manufacturing) in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes, 1972-1976

A - St. Tammany	Total	Mining	Construction	Transportation	Trade	Finance	Services	Govt./Public Admin.
1972	6,571	39	879	476	2,726	414	1,254	783
1973	7,872	42	1,046	593	3,228	510	1,531	922
1974	8,187	33	1,021	618	3,344	593	1,633	945
1975	8,891	133	1,310	674	3,600[1]	654	2,305	215[2]
1976	9,946	139	1,474	681	4,006[1]	799	2,679	174[2]

B - Tangipahoa	Total	Mining	Construction	Transportation	Trade	Finance	Services	Govt./Public Admin.
1972	9,477	76	528	379	4,683	433	1,019	2,359
1973	10,628	74	726	450	5,318	514	1,159	2,387
1974	10,802	80	748	505	5,139	622	1,331	2,377
1975	9,903	73	815	601	4,565[1]	642	2,860	347[2]
1976	11,270	68	913	633	4,959[1]	680	3,784	233[2]

C - Washington	Total	Mining	Construction	Transportation	Trade	Finance	Services	Govt./Public Admin.
1972	4,414	147	357	395	1,837	417	854	407
1973	4,790	96	374	490	2,021	397	938	474
1974	5,096	103	366	500	2,122	413	1,109	483
1975	5,009	108	527	547	2,005[1]	448	1,217	157[2]
1976	4,846	106	553	562	1,766[1]	449	1,295	115[2]

[1]In 1975, the category "trade" became two categories--"wholesale" and "retail." For purposes of clarity and consistency, the two categories are still listed as the single category "trade" in this table.

[2]In 1975, the category "government" was discontinued, replaced by the category "public administration." The category "government" reflected all government employees. The new category, "public administration" includes only the departments of justice and public safety. All other government employees have been distributed within the other appropriate categories.

Source: Louisiana Department of Employment Security, Employment/Wages, 1972-1977.

TABLE IV

Total Average Employment and Percentage Change in Employment in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes, and State of Louisiana, 1972 and 1976

	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington	3 Parish Total	Louisiana
1972	6,571	9,477	4,414	20,462	754,859
1976	9,946	11,270	4,846	26,062	937,567
% Change	51.4	18.9	9.8	27.4	24.2

Source: Louisiana Department of Employment Security, Employment/Wages, 1972-1977.

Third, in spite of significant growth in a number of other categories, trade continues to employ the largest number of individuals, 41 percent of the total, in 1976.

Unfortunately, no employment projections are available on a parish-wide basis. Job demands fluctuate rapidly, so the jobs which are open now may well not have openings in a few years. It is difficult to predict where openings will occur. Indications are that the St. Tammany area is increasingly becoming a residential community serving New Orleans. New Orleans is continuing to become a more central business area, with many of the white collar workers choosing to live in surrounding areas. The growth of retail sales in New Orleans directly affects the financial health of the St. Tammany area. As a demonstration of the correlation between New Orleans' business activity and income in St. Tammany Parish, in 1975 over 40 percent of St. Tammany Parish's total personal income was earned outside the parish.[6]

Table V displays annual per capita income from 1965 to 1975 in Louisiana and the three parish area. The per capita income in St. Tammany Parish has consistently been higher than its neighboring parishes and the state average. The per capita income in Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes has been consistently lower than the state average.

TABLE V

Annual Per Capita Income in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes, and the State of Louisiana, 1965-1975

	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington	Louisiana
1965	2,233	1,673	1,741	2,134
1966	2,513	1,853	1,921	2,348
1967	2,659	1,991	2,114	2,546
1968	2,915	2,241	2,291	2,766
1969	3,071	2,365	2,460	2,895
1970	3,265	2,491	2,662	3,090
1971	3,423	2,606	2,811	3,296
1972	3,697	2,904	3,103	3,574
1973	4,094	3,162	3,325	3,961
1974	4,577	3,448	3,638	4,456
1975	5,028	3,887	4,017	4,895

Source: Regional Economics Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, Social and Economic Statistics Administration, Washington, D.C.

In summary, the population is projected to increase by 46 percent between 1975 and 1990 in St. Tammany Parish and by 17 percent in Tangipahoa Parish. In Washington Parish, the projection is a one percent decrease. The area population is served by 27 high schools which produced 2,711 graduates in 1975. Projections indicate that the three parish area will produce 3,002 graduates in 1980, but decline to 2,539 by 1990, a decrease of 15 percent. In-migration in St. Tammany Parish may offset this projected decline.

Employment in the three parish area increased by 27 percent between 1972 and 1976, compared to 24 percent statewide. The most significant growth was in St. Tammany Parish. Per capita income in St. Tammany Parish has consistently been higher than its neighboring parishes and the state average. The per capita income in Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes has been consistently lower than the state average.

CHAPTER II

THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Institutions Serving the Three Parish Area

In the introduction to this study, a forty mile radius from near Slidell, Louisiana, was designated as a reasonable service area for the proposed two-year college. It is important to identify how the population in this general area is now being served by educational institutions and programs.

While Orleans Parish is not being considered as a service area for the proposed institution due to the number of institutions currently serving Orleans Parish, institutions located in New Orleans do provide numerous services to the population in the three parish area. There are nine institutions of higher education in the city of New Orleans which serve, to some degree, the three parish area. Six of these are private and three are public. In addition to these nine institutions, Louisiana State University's Medical Center is located in New Orleans, offering health-related programs from the certificate through PhD levels. Southeastern Louisiana University, located in Hammond, Louisiana, is just within forty miles of the location of the proposed institution. Table VI lists the name, type of control, and the highest degree offered by these eleven institutions. The location of these institutions is depicted in Appendix A, Figure 3.

The State of Louisiana has made a significant investment in developing a network of public vocational-technical schools. Three of these institutions directly serve the area under consideration. They are Hammond Area Vocational School located in Hammond (Tangipahoa Parish); Slidell Vocational-Technical School located in Slidell (St. Tammany Parish); and Sullivan Vocational-Technical Institute located in Bogalusa (Washington Parish). Also within the forty mile radius is the Orleans Area Vocational-Technical School. The loca-

TABLE VI

Institutions of Higher Education Within a Forty Mile Radius of the Proposed Two-Year Institution

Name	Control	Highest Degree Offered
Dillard University	Private	Bachelor's
Loyola University	Private	Master's
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	Private	Bachelor's
St. Mary's Dominican College	Private	Bachelor's
Tulane University	Private	Doctorate
Xavier University	Private	Master's
Delgado Junior College	Public	Associate
LSU Medical Center	Public	Doctorate
Southeastern Louisiana University	Public	Specialist
Southern University-New Orleans	Public	Bachelor's
University of New Orleans	Public	Doctorate

tion of these institutions is also depicted in Appendix A, Figure 3.

Programs Offered by Institutions Within the Forty Mile Radius

Higher education institutions engage in three primary activities--teaching, research, and public service. A new institution's first priority is the provision of degree programs in response to the needs of the population served. Table VII displays, by level, the number of degree programs offered at the institutions within a forty mile radius of the proposed site of the new two-year college. As can readily be seen in Table VII, there are a multitude of degree programs offered at the institutions which currently serve the three parish area. Together, the institutions offer 865 degree programs. The proposed two-year college's offerings would be restricted to certificate and associate level programs. Presently, existing institutions offer 31 certificate

TABLE VII

Number of Degree Programs Offered, by Level, at Institutions Within Forty Mile Radius of Proposed Site of New Two-Year College, 1977

INSTITUTION	DEGREE LEVELS						
	Certificate	Associate	Bachelor's	Master's	Specialist	Doctorate	Professional
Delgado	17	77					
LSU-Med. Ctr.	3	2	6	9		7	2
UNO		1	61	43		10	
SU-NO	1	6	34				
SLU	1	5	65	20	5		
Tulane	9		70	129		54	2
Xavier			40	6			
Dillard			42				
Loyola		5	55	14			1
St. Mary's Dominican		3	32				
Holy Cross		2	26				
Total	31	101	431	221	5	71	5

Source: Board of Regents, Preliminary Curriculum Inventory, 1977.

and 101 associate degree programs. As might be expected, most of these one- and two-year programs (72 percent) are concentrated at Delgado Junior College in New Orleans.

It is important to note at this point that the Board of Regents is aware that many citizens in the State of Louisiana who may want to avail themselves of one- and two-year programs have been unintentionally denied this opportunity. Louisiana does not have a community college system such as can be found in most other states. Delgado Junior College is Louisiana's only comprehensive community college. In light of the continued demands on revenues, the number and location of the state's public institutions of higher education, and the projected decline in enrollments, it is unlikely at this time that Louisiana would consider developing a community college system. In light of these conditions, the Regents, in The Master Plan for Higher Education in Louisiana encourage four-year institutions to develop additional two-year programs where needed. Based on this recommendation, it is anticipated that Southeastern Louisiana University will develop additional two-year programs to serve the area.

Off-Campus Educational Opportunities Offered in the Three Parish Area

In addition to the programs and services provided on their campuses, colleges and universities also provide access to the services through extension programs. Institution and state officials have recognized that due to family and work responsibilities, it is difficult for a number of the citizens to commute to colleges, even if they are within twenty to forty miles of an institution. In an attempt to extend access to these citizens who cannot readily commute to the campus, colleges and universities offer courses and programs of study off-campus.

Table VIII lists the lower level undergraduate courses which are currently

TABLE VIII

Lower Level Undergraduate Offerings of Nearby Institutions of Public Higher Education in St. Tammany and Washington Parishes, Academic Year 1977-78*

Delgado (St. Tammany)	Delgado - Cont.	Southeastern (St. Tammany)	Southeastern (Washington)
Accounting I, II	Small Business	Accounting 211, 212	Government 201
Adv. Data Processing	Mensuration	Chemistry 101, 103, 104	Government 202
Amer. Lit. I, II	Nat'l Elec. Codes I	English 101, 102	Law Enforcement 101
Arithmetic	Remedial Eng.	English 230, 232	Speech 211
Amer. Hist. to 1865	Intro. to Psych. I, II	Government 202	
Amer. Hist. after 1865	Physical Science I	History 201	
Intro. to Business	Intro. to Soc.	Law Enforcement 101	
Basic Bus. Finance	Soc. of the Family	Math 141, 142	
Vus. Law I	Shorthand I	Speech 211	
Bus. Law II	Systems Design and Services		
Bus. Statistics	Tech Writing I		
Intro. to Child Devel. II	Intro. to Typing		
College Algebra			
College Trig.			
Compar. Prog. in Child Devel.			
Criminal Law I			
First Aid for Children			
Economics I, II			
Elem. Algebra			
Fund. of Electricity			
Fortran			
Federal Tax Acct.			
Health and Nutrition			
Juv. Corr.			
LA History			
Management Acct.			
Intro. to Marketing			
Marketing			
Principles of Marketing			

*Tangipahoa Parish is not included in this table because Southeastern Louisiana University provides all lower level undergraduate offerings in its parish of domicile in accordance with the Board of Regents' Guidelines for the Conduct of Off-Campus Activities.

being offered in St. Tammany and Washington Parishes by colleges and universities with home campuses within forty miles of Slidell. (Tangipahoa Parish is not included in this table because Southeastern Louisiana University is domiciled in this parish and is, therefore, responsible for all undergraduate programs offered in the parish. During the academic year 1977-78, Southeastern did not identify sufficient demand in the parish to make lower level undergraduate courses available off-campus.) It is evident from the number and variety of programs listed in Table VIII that institutions within a reasonable distance of the area are providing numerous opportunities for the population of the parishes under study to further their educational goals. In academic year 1977-78, over 50 lower level undergraduate extension courses are being offered in St. Tammany and Washington Parishes.

The wide variety of certificate and associate degree programs available to persons in the three parishes includes programs in the following general areas: business and commerce, data processing, health services, mechanical and engineering technologies, natural science, public services and general studies. In addition to these programs offered by higher education institutions, occupational programs are offered by the vocational-technical schools in the area. Table IX lists the programs available through the vocational schools in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes.

Taken together, the vocational-technical schools and the colleges and universities offer a wide variety of opportunities for those individuals residing in the three parish area who wish to expand their educational experiences.

In summary, there are ten institutions of higher education which serve, to various degrees, the three parish area. Nine of these institutions are located in New Orleans. These colleges and universities within forty miles

of the site of the proposed two-year college offer over 850 degree programs. Over 130 of these are at the certificate and associate degree level. In addition to the courses offered on campus, over 50 courses at the lower undergraduate level were offered in the three parish area through extension in academic year 1977-78. A state vocational-technical school is also located in each of the three parishes under study.

TABLE IX

Programs Available at Vocational-Technical Schools in St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes

Hammond Area Voc. School (Tangipahoa Parish)	Slidell Vo-Tech School (St. Tammany Parish)	Sullivan Vo-Tech Institute (Washington Parish)
Air Conditioning	Accounting	Air Conditioning
Appliance Repair	Air Conditioning	Auto Mechanics
Auto Body/Fender Repair	Auto Body/Fender Repair	Business Data Processing Systems
Auto Mechanics	Auto Mechanics	Carpentry
Diesel Mechanics	Carpentry	Drafting/Surveying
Drafting/Surveying	Constructional Electricity	General Merchandise
Electronics - Basics	Diesel Mechanics	Machine Shop
Office Occupations	Drafting/Surveying	Office Occupations
Practical Nursing	Electronics - Basics	Practical Nursing
Radio-TV	Foremanship, Supervision and Management Development	Radio-TV
Welding	Industrial Electronics	Welding/Shipfitting
	Masonry	
	Office Occupations	
	Ornamental Horticulture	
	Plumbing	
	Practical Nursing	
	Quantity Food Occupations	
	Seamanship	
	Welding	
	Welding/Shipfitting	

Source: LA School Directory 1976-1977. State Department of Education.

CHAPTER III

POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF NEW TWO-YEAR COLLEGE

One of the primary considerations when investigating the feasibility of establishing a new college or university is the potential effect of such an institution on the community, as well as on the state. This chapter will attempt to examine how a new college would affect the three parish area and those institutions which currently serve the population.

Before turning specifically to the three parish area under study, it is important to assess the recent experience of public higher education in Louisiana. The decade of the sixties was a prosperous time for higher education in Louisiana and the nation. The prime consideration of most higher education planners was the addition of new facilities and the expansion of faculties to meet burgeoning enrollments. The advent of the seventies brought the realization that not every institution's enrollment could continue to increase steadily in the face of the declining rate of live births. Table X traces college enrollments in Louisiana in the seventies. These statistics indicate that the growth period in higher education in Louisiana is over. For the first time in recent memory, a slight decline in enrollments was evidenced in two successive years, 1976 and 1977.

The Three Parish Area

Table XI displays data on students from St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes who are enrolled in programs on the campuses of nearby institutions. Over 3,800 students from the three parishes attend public institutions in the general area, while an additional 1,900 students attend other

TABLE X

Enrollment in Louisiana's Public Institutions of Higher Education, 1972-1977

Year	Enrollment
1972	114,452
1973	111,985
1974	119,277
1975	131,603
1976	130,069
1977	129,886

Source: HEGIS Form 2300-2.3. Opening Fall Enrollment in Higher Education, 1972-1977.

public institutions in Louisiana. It can be assumed that area students who attend a university distant from their home parish, do so for a specific reason. Although it is impossible to gauge, the establishment of a community college in St. Tammany Parish would, in all likelihood, have minimal effect on the educational plans of these students.

TABLE XI

Students in Selected Colleges and Universities from St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes, 1977

Parish	Delgado	SUNO	SLU	UNO	Total
St. Tammany	218	31	1,041	295	1,585
Tangipahoa	16	24	1,624	19	1,683
Washington	6	12	520	17	555
Total	240	67	3,185	331	3,823

Source: 1978-79 Institutional Budget Requests.

It has been noted that enrollments are stabilizing, and in some cases declining in Louisiana's public institutions of higher education. Table XII traces past and projected enrollments at those public institutions within forty miles of the site of the proposed community college. Enrollments at the institutions listed in Table XII are expected to peak in 1980 and then commence a decline. Enrollments are projected to decline between 1980 and 1990 by 22 percent at Delgado, 9 percent at Southeastern, 19 percent at Southern-New Orleans, and 1 percent at UNO.

TABLE XII

Enrollment in Selected Institutions of Higher Education, 1973, 1975, 1977 and Projected Enrollment 1980, 1985, 1990

Year	Delgado	SLU	SU-NO	UNO
1973	5,344	6,129	2,604	12,269
1975	10,069	7,071	3,461	13,757
1977	9,742	7,073	3,085	14,161
1980	10,878	8,291	4,485	16,358
1985	9,286	7,811	3,999	16,074
1990	8,443	7,571	3,627	16,187

Source: 1973, 1975, 1977 data from HEGIS Form 2300-2.3, Opening Fall Enrollment in Higher Education. 1980, 1985, 1990 Projections from Louisiana Board of Regents.

Effects of New Institution on Enrollments

The creation of a new community college in the Slidell area could further affect enrollments at nearby institutions because the location of a college

campus exerts a strong influence on a student's educational choice. We can assume that if a community college were established in St. Tammany Parish, a number of people who would not otherwise pursue higher education would enroll at the new two-year institution. Table XIII displays the college-going rate of recent public high school graduates in the three parish area and Louisiana. The percentage of the previous year's public high school graduates from St. Tammany Parish pursuing higher education has consistently been higher than the state average. Washington Parish's percentage has been consistently lower than the state average, and Tangipahoa's average has fluctuated above and below the state average.

TABLE XIII

Percentage of Previous Year's Public High School Graduates Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education from St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes and Louisiana, 1971-75

Year	St. Tammany	Tangipahoa	Washington	Louisiana
1971	50.0	44.3	29.5	48.1
1972	46.7	36.8	35.8	44.5
1973	44.4	42.2	32.0	43.2
1974	48.8	45.5	16.6	41.8
1975	50.2	52.3	31.0	39.5

Source: State Department of Education of Louisiana, Annual Report, 1971-75.

The projections cited in Table XII indicate that, after 1980, all the public institutions within a forty mile radius of the proposed site will experience a decline in enrollment. If a new two-year institution is established, the declines at existing nearby institutions could be more severe than projected.

True, a number of students with no plans to enroll in higher education would probably do so if a new two-year college were established, and a number of them, upon completion of the two-year program, would continue their education at a nearby four-year university. But the possible net decline in enrollments at nearby institutions caused by students choosing to go to school near home could severely affect those nearby institutions at a time when budgets are already limited. In addition, since the nearby institutions are projected to experience declines in enrollments, any growth in the St. Tammany area over the next ten to twenty years could be absorbed by the institutions which presently serve the area.

Effects of New Institution on Facilities

The State of Louisiana has committed millions of dollars to build facilities on college campuses. Today the estimated value of this physical plant investment is in excess of $1 billion. In the fifties and sixties, the state invested large sums to provide facilities for increasing numbers of students. In the mid-seventies, as enrollments stabilize and, in some cases, decline, many institutions face financial hardship as a result of the earlier expansion of facilities. In some cases lower enrollments result in empty dormitories and/or unnecessary cafeterias, as well as declining revenues which had been pledged to meet debt service requirements on revenue bonds issued to build auxiliary enterprises. Louisiana's system of higher education has suffered from a lack of effective planning, and the effects of this lack of planning are still visible today.

With the revenue problems facing colleges and universities, many institutions delay necessary maintenance of the physical plant. Funds for operations and maintenance were and are being deferred to meet other current needs. As a result, most campuses find themselves in a position of having a number of buildings on their campuses in various stages of disrepair. Table XIV displays

a summary of building conditions in Louisiana's public higher education institutions. The data indicate that 48 percent of all buildings are in need of some repair. This translates to 36 percent of the total gross square feet of area in Louisiana's public colleges and universities. Of the 1,274 buildings, a minimum of 296 (approximately 23 percent) were built between 1920 and 1949; these facilities will require future renovations and continuous maintenance to protect the State's investment. There is little reason to assume that today's bleak realities will measurably improve in the foreseeable future.

TABLE XIV

Building Condition Summary, Public Colleges and Universities, 1977

Rating*	# of Buildings	% of Total	Gross Sq. Feet	% of Total
Adequate	660	52	16,790,935	64
Remodel A	172	14	4,629,967	18
Remodel B	247	19	3,033,758	12
Remodel C	108	9	1,077,292	4
Obsolete	87	6	574,647	2
Total	1,274	100	26,106,599	100

Source: Board of Regents, Facilities Inventory and Utilization System, 1977.
*See Appendix B, Table 2 for definitions of building ratings.

As an example of the probable cost of establishing a new two-year college in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana State University in Alexandria (LSU-A) will be used. The LSU-A campus was chosen as having the minimum square footage to accommodate 1,500 fulltime equivalent students. LSU-A operates in 19 buildings, a gross square footage of 264,418. The Dodge Systems Manual, a nationally

recognized construction price index, currently lists average classroom space construction costs at $58.60 per square foot.[7] This per square foot cost times the number of square feet equals $15,494,895. It should be noted that (1) these construction costs will increase annually, and (2) these costs account for general classroom space only. Laboratory construction which would be necessary for a two-year community college is more expensive.

Using LSU-A again as an example, Table XV outlines the operations and maintenance costs of its present physical plant. One may conclude from the data displayed in Table XV that the annual "facilities" operating cost for a plant this size is in excess of $500,000. This figure does not include annual debt service of $1,003,754 on the approximately $15,000,000 construction cost.

TABLE XV

Physical Plant Budget of LSU-A, 1976/77 and 1977/78

	1976/77	1977/78
Personal Services	250,071	287,620
Travel	0	100
Operation Services	139,159	180,472
Supplies	31,030	40,390
Acquisitions	9,602	20,900
Major Repairs	17,927	49,443
	447,789	578,925

Source: "Questionnaire of Physical Plant Operations" prepared for Board of Regents' Facilities Inspection Team, 1977.

In summary, the significant growth in higher education enrollments in Louisiana appears to be over. For two successive years a small decrease in enrollment has been experienced. All public colleges and universities in Louisiana are projected to experience declines in enrollments after 1980.

During academic year 1977-78, there are more than 5,700 students from the three parish area enrolled in public institutions of higher education. The possible net decline in enrollments at nearby institutions caused by area students choosing to attend the proposed institution could be substantial. Maintenance and operation of higher education's physical plants will continue to strain the state budget. Presently, almost half of all buildings are in need of some repair. Data indicate that this problem will continue. Additionally, the cost of operating these buildings will continue to increase. The establishment of a new two-year institution would add to the state's higher education budget. The projected initial cost of the new institution is approximately $15,000,000, with an anticipated annual operation and maintenance cost of over $500,000.

CHAPTER IV

APPLICATION OF CRITERIA AND CONCLUSION

To reach a decision on the feasibility of establishing a two-year community college in St. Tammany Parish, it must first be determined whether the Board of Regents' requirements set forth in The Master Plan for Higher Education in Louisiana are met. Those requirements are as follows:

> In regard to the establishment of two-year institutions, the Board of Regents recommends that a new two-year institution of higher education may be considered for establishment in any area where projections indicate an enrollment potential of at least 1,500 fulltime equivalent students by the end of the third year of operation and 2,000 by the end of the fifth year. The Board of Regents will take into consideration the geographic location of existing institutions which may be in enough proximity to the area under study to provide effectively the necessary higher education services.[8]

After review of the data, it appears that the St. Tammany area meets the Master Plan requirement for enrollment potential. The Slidell area (St. Tammany Parish) is a primary growth area in the state. Over fifty percent of projected population growth during the next ten years is attributable to in-migration, with the majority of persons moving into the parish employed outside the St. Tammany area. Data indicate that residents of the parish enjoy a higher per capita income than the state average. Historically, there has been a positive correlation between income and participation in higher education. Additionally, the participation rate in higher education of recent high school graduates from St. Tammany Parish is higher than the Louisiana average; the three parish area presently enrolls approximately 5,700 students in public higher education. Taken together, these factors--the influx of residents with characteristics conducive to participation in higher education and the current high participation rate--indicate a potential interest sufficient to meet the Board of Regents' enrollment requirement. The second Board of Regents' requirement (proximity of existing institutions) is equally important.

Most of the criteria for the establishment of a new higher education institution presented in the Introduction to this study deal with the effective use of existing institutions and resources. The area's ability to satisfy the Board of Regents' second requirement can be tested by the application of these criteria. Restated, the criteria are:

1. Optimum use should be made of state higher education resources in relation to the greatest relative need, both geographically and functionally.

2. To avoid unnecessary duplication, differentiation of functions of the three segments of public higher education--two-year colleges, four-year colleges, and university campuses--is imperative.

3. The financing of new publicly supported institutions should be so arranged that it in no way interferes with the needs, including improvement or expansion, of existing ones.

4. It is not in the public interest to extend publicly supported institutions to the degree that they jeopardize the continued operation of long-established private ones that are serving the community well.

5. In considering the need for additional public institutions, the particular needs of localities should not be overlooked, yet the general interest of the state should be paramount.[9]

The first criterion addresses the issue of the optimum use of state higher education resources. Institutions of higher education in Louisiana expanded their physical plants during the sixties to accommodate increasing enrollments. Projections indicate that, after 1980, enrollments in higher education will decline. This anticipated decline will free space on existing campuses to accommodate any anticipated growth in the three parish area under study. Considering the many ways that existing institutions now serve the area, the anticipated enrollment declines, and the resulting under-utilized facilities, it seems apparent that the establishment of the proposed two-year community college would impede full utilization of existing resources.

The second criterion concerns unnecessary duplication and differentiation of function. The three parish area is presently served by three vocational-

technical schools (Hammond Area Vocational School in Tangipahoa Parish, Slidell Vocational-Technical School in St. Tammany Parish, and Sullivan Vocational-Technical Institute in Washington Parish). The public higher education institutions within a forty mile radius include one comprehensive community college (Delgado Junior College), and three state universities (Southeastern Louisiana University, the University of New Orleans, and Southern University-New Orleans). These institutions provide a variety of services to the area, both on and off-campus. The establishment of a new two-year college would, at the lower undergraduate level, duplicate some of the services presently being provided to the area by nearby institutions. Also, the cost of establishing a new institution would far exceed the cost of expanding services at existing institutions to meet any anticipated demands.

The third criterion addresses the possibility that the financing of a new institution could interfere with the needs of existing institutions. As mentioned earlier, over 3,800 students from the three parish area attend nearby public institutions. The establishment of a new two-year college in St. Tammany Parish could have two negative effects on the financing of nearby institutions. First, many of the students who, under present circumstances, would attend nearby institutions might opt for enrollment at the new two-year college. .Institutional funding is presently based on student credit hours. Loss of enrollments, therefore, represents loss of income to institutions. In addition to these financial effects which might result from the loss of students, there are also potential adverse effects on construction and operating and maintenance budgets of existing institutions. We have estimated that the construction of a new campus would cost more that $15,000,000, and a minimum additional $500,000 for annual operating and maintenance costs. The Board of Regents found that nearly 50 percent of all facilities on existing university campuses

were in need of some repair. Additionally, approximately 300 buildings (over 20 percent) were built between 30 and 60 years ago and will require repairs in the future to protect the state's investment. For the state to assume the further responsibility of building and maintaining a new campus at this time seems both uneconomical and impractical, considering the present and future needs of the existing campuses.

The fourth criterion concerns potential negative effects of a new institution on long established private institutions. The private institutions in New Orleans generally serve a specific clientele, and none of the private colleges is a two-year institution. Inasmuch as several of these institutions do offer evening courses and a number of associate degree programs, the establishment of a two-year college in St. Tammany Parish could have some effect on their operations.

The fifth and final criterion addresses the importance of the educational needs of localities, while also addressing the general interests of the entire state. Although there is a demand for educational services in the three parish area, it appears that nearby institutions (nine institutions of higher education and three vo-tech schools) are making sincere and successful efforts to meet this demand. Community colleges are, in general, responsive to the needs of business and industry in the areas they serve. The three parish area to be served by the proposed college is primarily residential. The area does not appear to have an industrial base with enough diversity to support an occupationally oriented community college. The needs of the home-building industry, the foremost business activity in St. Tammany Parish, can be met by programs offered through existing nearby institutions. It appears that the educational needs in the area can be met through off-campus activities and the anticipated future excess capacity of existing institutions.

In summary, the application of the criteria for establishment of a new institution of higher education reveals that the three parish area does not meet the second requirement advanced by the Board of Regents in The Master Plan for Higher Education in Louisiana. Presently available information indicates that:

1. optimum use of existing higher education facilities and resources would be hindered by establishment of a new institution;

2. the proposed two-year community college would duplicate some of the services now being offered by existing institutions;

3. a new institution would strain the present budget for higher education in Louisiana;

4. private institutions might well be affected, however minimally, by the establishment of a new institution in the area; and

5. identifiable educational demands of the area for lower level undergraduate instruction are being and can be served by existing institutions within a forty mile radius of the proposed site.

Conclusion

The foregoing analysis supports two observations:

(1) the anticipated population growth in the St. Tammany area would probably provide sufficient enrollment to meet the Board of Regents' minimum requirement for establishment of a two-year community college; and

(2) a new two-year institution would have adverse effects on existing colleges and universities and on an already limited state higher education budget.

When these two factors are weighed, it appears that establishing a new institution at Slidell is not educationally or economically feasible at this time. The present and anticipated future educational needs of the area, however, cannot be denied. We recommend that existing institutions continue to identify the

demands of the citizens in the three parish area under consideration and respond to those demands with educational programs and services of high quality through extension and student transportation. Projected enrollment declines should free sufficient resources at existing nearby institutions to enable these institutions to serve the three parish area well over the next several years. Therefore, the Board of Regents recommends that a two-year community college not be established in St. Tammany Parish at this time.

FOOTNOTES

[1]House Concurrent Resolution No. 116, 1977 Regular Session, Louisiana Legislature.

[2]Ibid.

[3]Louisiana Board of Regents, The Master Plan for Higher Education in Louisiana (adopted December 15, 1977; publication, early 1978.)

[4]Missouri Commission on Higher Education, Final Report: Missouri Public Junior College Study, (Jefferson City: July, 1968), pp. 38-41, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (Washington, D. C., U.S. Government Printing Office, 1974), pp. 359-60.

[5]Coordinating Council for Higher Education, California's Needs for Additional Centers of Public Higher Education, (Sacremento, 1964), p. 10, from Halstead, Statewide Planning, p. 359.

[6]Derivation of Income by Residence: Selected Years, 1965 to Date. Regional Economics Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, Social and Economic Statistics Administration, Washington, D. C.

[7]1978 Dodge Construction System Costs. Dodge Building Costs Services (New York: McGraw-Hill Information Systems Co.), 1978.

[8]Louisiana Board of Regents, ibid.

[9]Halstead, p. 359.

APPENDIX A

FIGURES

FIGURE 1

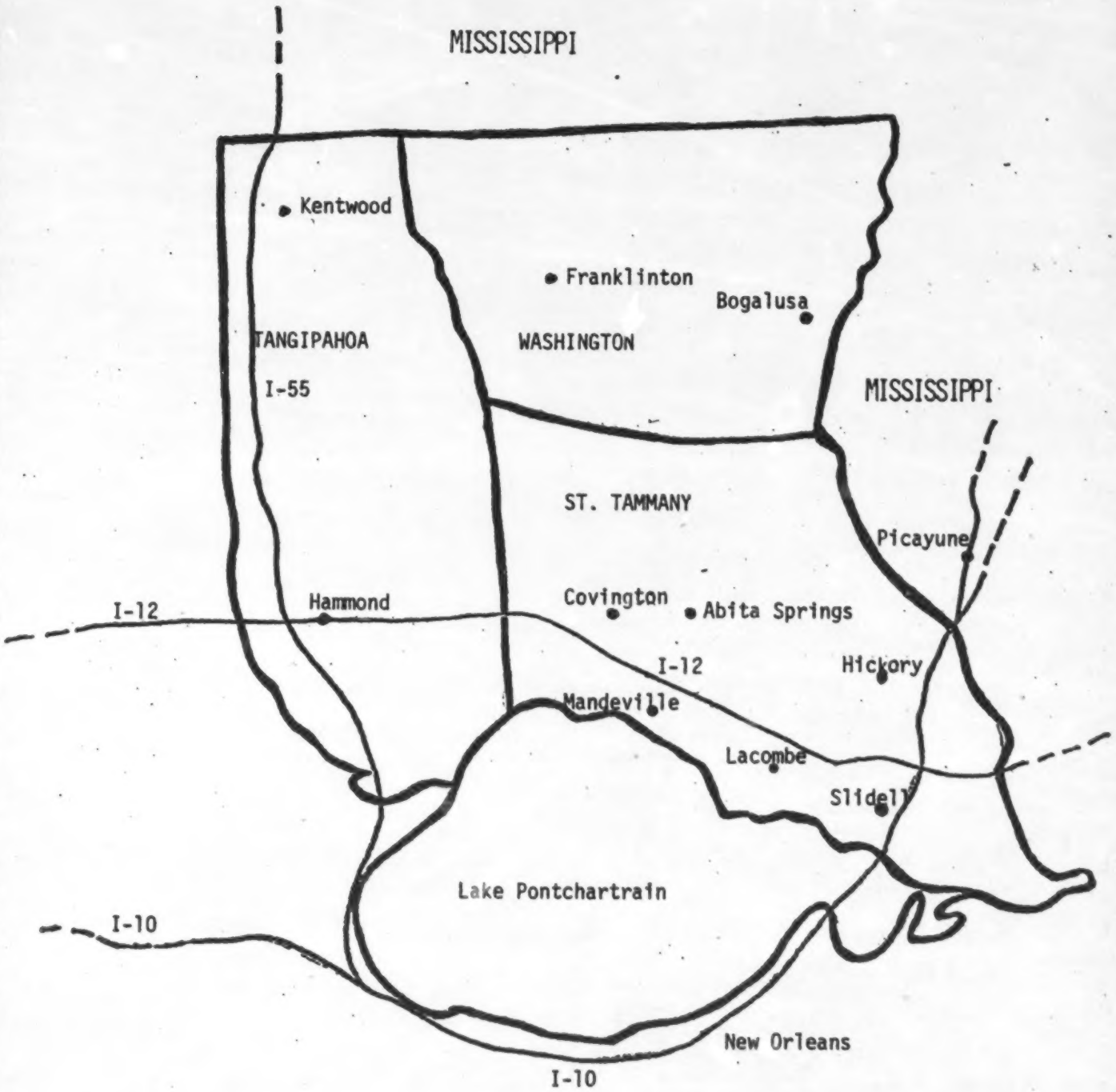

MISSISSIPPI
Kentwood
Franklinton
Bogalusa
TANGIPAHOA
I-55
WASHINGTON
MISSISSIPPI
ST. TAMMANY
Picayune
I-12
Hammond
Covington
Abita Springs
I-12
Hickory
Mandeville
Lacombe
Slidell
Lake Pontchartrain
I-10
New Orleans
I-10

FIGURE 2

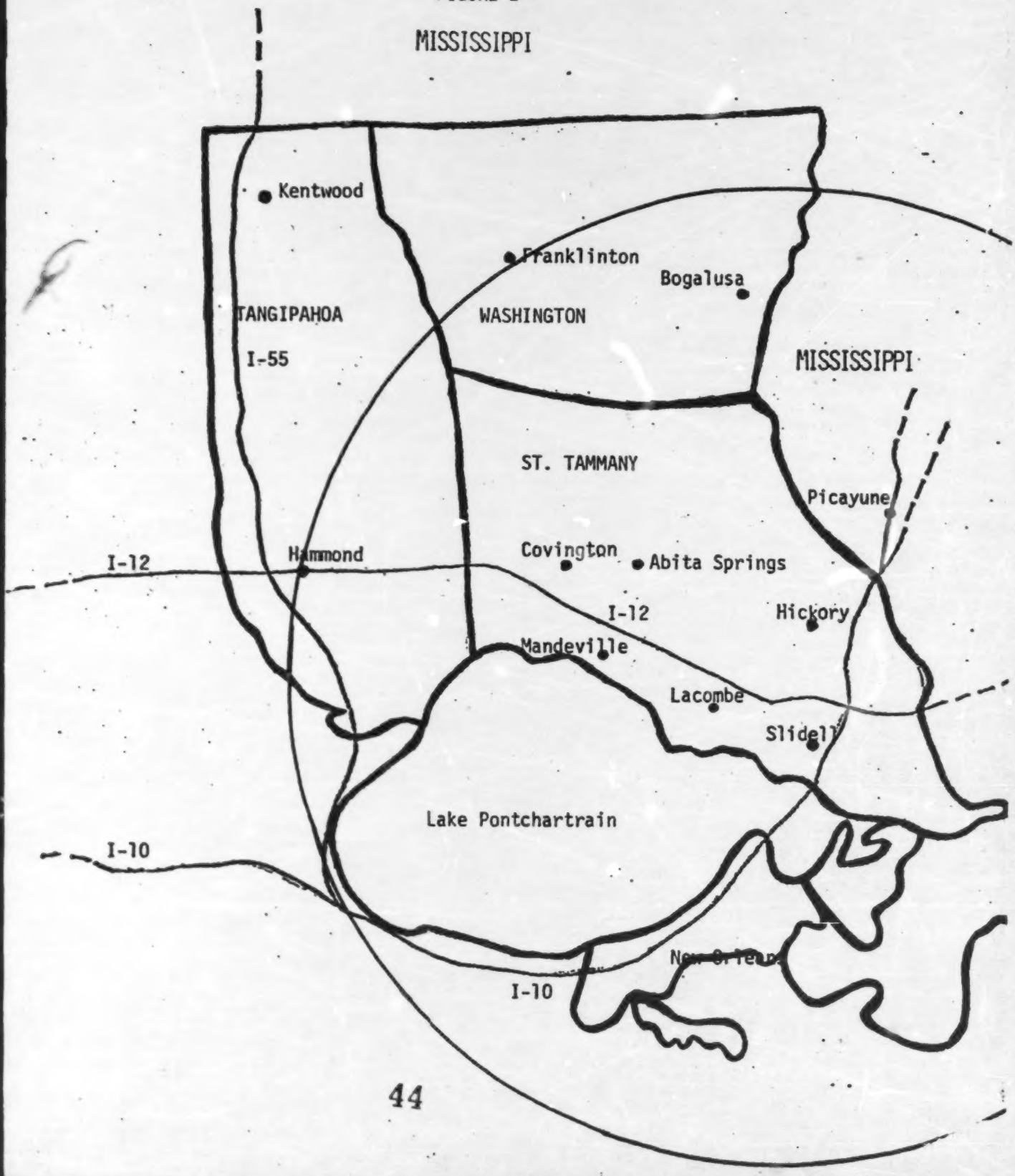
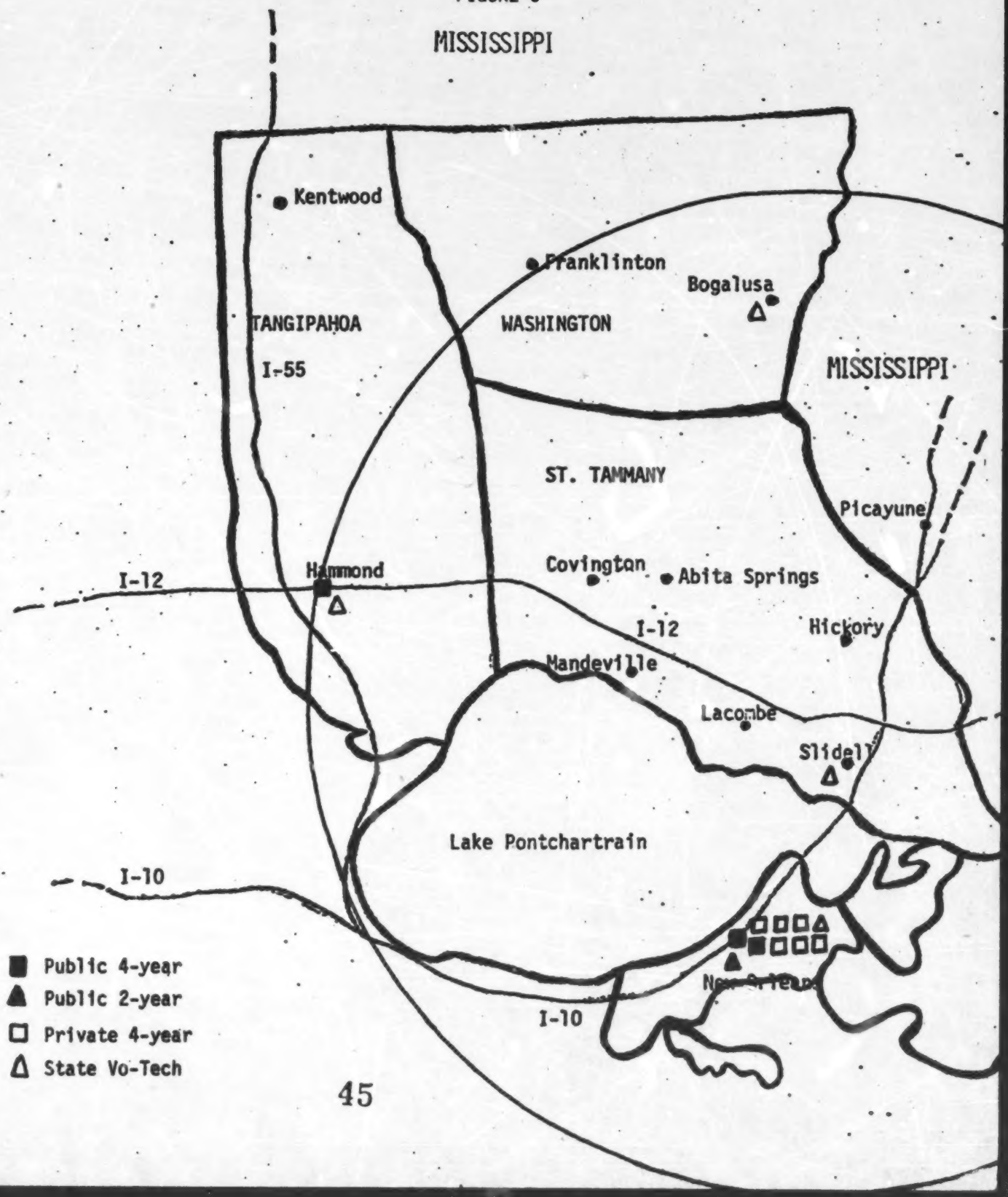

MISSISSIPPI
Kentwood
Franklinton
Bogalusa
TANGIPAHOA
I-55
WASHINGTON
MISSISSIPPI
ST. TAMMANY
Picayune
Hammond
I-12
Covington
Abita Springs
I-12
Hickory
Mandeville
Lacombe
Slidell
Lake Pontchartrain
I-10
I-10

FIGURE 3


MISSISSIPPI
Kentwood
Franklinton
Bogalusa
TANGIPAHOA
WASHINGTON
I-55
MISSISSIPPI
ST. TAMMANY
Picayune
Hammond
I-12
Covington
Abita Springs
I-12
Hickory
Mandeville
Lacombe
Slidell
Lake Pontchartrain
I-10
I-10
Public 4-year
Public 2-year
Private 4-year
State Vo-Tech

APPENDIX B

TABLES

TABLE 1

High Schools Serving the Tangipahoa-Washington-
St. Tammany Parish Area

Tangipahoa	Washington	St. Tammany
Public	**Public**	**Public**
Amite	Franklinton Sr. High	Covington High
Chesbrough	Mt. Hermon	Mandeville High
Hammond High	Pine	Pearl River High
Independence Boys' High	Varnado High	Salmen
Independence Girls' High		Slidell High
Kentwood High		
Loranger High		
Ponchatoula		
Spring Creek		
Private	**Private**	**Private**
Interstate Christian	Bowling Green	Holy Redeemer High
Jesus Name Christian		St. Paul
Oak Forest Academy		St. Scholastica
Southwood Academy		
Valley Forge Academy		

TABLE 2

Definitions of Building Condition Ratings

1) Adequate - suitable for continued use with normal maintenance.

2) Remodeling A - requires restoration to present acceptable standards without major room changes, alterations, modernization, or expansion. The approximate cost of Remodeling A is not greater than 25 percent of the estimated replacement cost of the facility.

3) Remodeling B - requires major updating and/or modernization of the facility. The approximate cost of Remodeling B is greater than 25 percent, but not greater than 50 percent of the estimated replacement cost of the facility.

4) Remodeling C - requires major remodeling of the facility. The approximate cost of Remodeling C is greater than 50 percent of the replacement cost of the facility.

5) Obsolete - this category is a combination of buildings which fit either of the following definitions:

   a) Demolition - should be demolished or abandoned because the facility is unsafe or structurally unsound, irrespective of the need for the space or the availability of funds for a replacement.

   b) Termination - planned termination or relinquishment of occupancy of the facility for reasons other than unsafeness or structural unsoundness, such as abandonment of temporary units or vacation of leased space.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

George Luffey—Chairman, Monroe, LA

Robert J. Bodet—Vice-Chairman, New Orleans, LA

Parletta Holmes—Secretary, New Orleans, LA

Richard D'Aquin—Lafayette, LA

W. J. DeFelice—Thibodaux, LA

Albert W. Dent—New Orleans, LA

Ewell E. Eagan—New Orleans, LA

J. K. Haynes—Baton Rouge, LA

Thomas James—Ruston, LA

Edith Kirkpatrick—Baton Rouge, LA

Rogers M. Prestridge—Bossier City, LA

Robert Pugh—Shreveport, LA

Joe D. Smith—Alexandria, LA

John Thistlethwaite—Opelousas, LA

D. S. Young—Lafayette, LA

William Arceneaux, Commissioner of Higher Education